

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1-14 and 16-18, without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Please amend Claims 15, 19, and 21, as follows.

1-14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) A sheet processing apparatus comprising:

a supply opening for supplying a sheet into a main body;

a discharge opening for discharging the sheet subjected to processing within the main body outside of said apparatus;

a first openable/closable cover member for covering said supply opening[[:]];

a second openable/closable cover member for covering said discharge opening; and

connection means for maintaining, when both of said first cover member and said second cover member are closed, a state in which said first cover member and said second cover member are closed by connecting said first cover member and said second cover member,

wherein said supply opening is disposed at an upper surface of a main body, and said discharge opening is disposed at one side of the main body,

wherein said first cover member is rotatable around a first rotation center disposed on the upper surface of the main body, said second cover member is rotatable around a second rotation center disposed at a side of the main body, and, when both of said first cover member and said second cover member are closed, an end portion of said first cover member and an end portion of said second cover member face each other at the side,

wherein said connection means comprises a first engaging portion provided at an end portion of said first cover member, and a second engaging portion provided at said second cover member and engageable with said first engaging portion, and

wherein, when engagement between said first engaging portion and said second engaging portion is detached, said second cover member opens by its own weight.

16-18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) A sheet processing apparatus according to Claim ~~17~~ 15, further comprising opening means for opening said second cover member when engagement between said first engaging portion and said second engaging portion is detached.

20. (Original) A sheet processing apparatus according to Claim 15, wherein said connection means comprises a magnetic material provided at one of said first cover member and said second cover member, and a metal member provided at another one of said first cover member and said second cover member, and connects said first cover member and said second cover member by attraction of said metal member by said magnetic material.

21. (Currently Amended) A sheet processing apparatus according any one of Claims ~~15-20~~ 15, 19, and 20, wherein said sheet processing apparatus performs recording on a sheet supplied from said supply opening using recording means, and discharges the sheet on which the recording has been performed from said discharge opening.

22. (Original) A sheet processing apparatus according to Claim 21, wherein said recording means comprises an ink-jet recording head.